



City news,
features,
and
updates

This Week in Huntsville

April 11
2016

What you need to know for the May 7th Special Election

The City of Huntsville will hold a special election on May 7 to elect a Councilmember - At - Large Position 1.



EARLY VOTING INFORMATION

Early voting will be conducted at the Walker County Annex, 1301 Sam Houston Avenue, Suite 101

April 25 through May 3, 2016 - Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

There will be two twelve - hour days during early voting:
Tuesday, April 26th and Tuesday, May 3rd – Early Voting
Hours 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

CITY POLLING LOCATION

All qualified registered voters of the City of Huntsville will vote at the
Walker County Annex
1301 Sam Houston Avenue , Room 101
Huntsville, Texas 77340

Election Day: Saturday, May 7, 2016 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Little Stinger Book Drive – Tomorrow!!

When: Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Where: Gibbs PreK School, Huntsville Elementary, Samuel W. Houston Elementary, Scott Johnson Elementary, Stewart Elementary, the Hawkins Administration Building (7 am-4 pm) the Huntsville Public Library (10 am-4 pm) & Huntsville-Walker County Chamber of Commerce. (9 am-4 pm)

Who: Contact the Chamber of Commerce at (936) 295-8113 or HISD at (936) 435-6397 for more information.



Why: All books will be sorted and distributed to HISD students in PreK through fourth grade (ages 3 through 10) for students to keep. Allowing book ownership creates a sense of pride and fosters an appreciation for reading. Statistics show that early exposure to literacy will ensure greater future educational success. Monetary donations are also accepted, make checks payable to the Huntsville-Walker County Chamber of Commerce.

May 7, 2016 Special Election: Voting information, key dates

When is Election Day? (Cuando es el Dia de Eleccion?)

Saturday, May 7, 2016 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sabado 7 de Mayo del 2016 de 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Am I registered to vote? (Estoy registrado para votar?)

In order to vote in this election, you must be a registered voter of the particular political subdivision.

The last day to register to vote for the May 7 election is April 7, 2016.

If you are not sure if your voter registration is current you may call (936)436-4959 or visit:

<https://team1.sos.state.tx.us/voterws/viw/faces/Introduction.jsp>.

(Para poder votar en esta eleccion tiene que ser un votante registrado de la division politica particular. Si no esta seguro si su registracion para votar esta vigente puede llamar (936)436-4959 o visite nuestra pagina de web arriba.)

Where do I go for early voting? (A donde voy para votar temprano?)

There will be one Early Voting Polling Place for all entities:

Walker County Annex, 1301 Sam Houston Avenue, Suite 101, Huntsville, Texas.

(Habrá solamente un lugar para votación temprana para todas entidades que será localizada en el Walker County Annex.)

HOT Workshop

The annual HOT Funds workshop was a huge success this year. Three dynamic speakers were brought in by Kimm Thomas, the Director of Tourism & Cultural Services, to speak with local community organizations to teach them everything they want to know about the Hotel Occupancy Tax funds that they are eligible to apply for. The speakers offered their expertise in tourism and how a community can develop a tourist-driven culture.

Scott Joslove, President and CEO, Texas Hotel & Lodging Association; Elizabeth Taylor, consultant and former CVB & Convention Center Director for the City of Waco; and Arthur Andrews, a nationally known motivational speaker each gave a presentation of how these funds and events will help our community grow.

"I would particularly note how proud I am to be here with one of the best directors in the state," said Joslove. "Kimm is state of the art and knows how to create business in your community" Joslove mentioned about his time at the workshop.

"Kimm and her staff are making sure people here understand what's possible, what's legal, and how to make it grow. Every community should do this and Kimm is a great example." Taylor mentioned. The event was a success and it was great to see all of the growth happening right here in Huntsville!



HUB Show

The 20th Annual Historically Underutilized Business (HUB)/Vendor Show was better than ever. Held March 17 at the Walker County Storm Shelter, it was sponsored by the City of Huntsville, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University, the SHSU Small Business Development Center, and Walker County.

"The main objective of the show was to assist vendors in the Huntsville area to increase their customer base to include government entities said Billie Smith, City of Huntsville Purchasing Manager. Each level of government has slightly different bidding requirements and this can be daunting to the vendors. The sponsors were available to discuss various details pertaining to their purchasing processes and procedures" stated Smith. The City of Huntsville looks forward to working with local vendors.



Local Government Day



Here at the City of Huntsville we love getting kids excited about their local government, so we invited the Huntsville Homeschool Organization to join us for Local Government Day! The students hosted their own City Council meeting full of motions, proclamations, and excellent use of the Mayor's gavel.

To start the afternoon, the students learned about the type of government the City of Huntsville has, so they could represent the City well when it came time to host their mock council meeting. When the time came to fill the chairs of all eight City Councilmembers, the Mayor, City Attorney, City Manager and City Secretary, their faces lit up with excitement! They all took their roles very seriously and told us it was interesting to see how the meetings are conducted. The City of Huntsville has a bright future with these young city officials in the making! If your group is interested, we would love to have you!



Women of 1520

Councilmembers Olson and Humphrey spent the evening of March 17th giving advice to the organization *Women of 1520* on the SHSU campus. Councilmember Montgomery joined later that evening as a roundtable speaker.

They spoke about the importance of networking and gave advice from a business owner perspective.

Councilmember Humphrey mentioned "The event was much more than I expected, and it was incredible to be around a group of such motivated and go-getter minded women. We opened the night speaking about different business topics and then guest speakers at each table engaged in conversation with the women. The event was very impressive and it was refreshing to see women building confidence and ultimately a better community." said Humphrey.



2016-2017 City Calendars Are HERE!

They flew out the door last time, so we can't wait for you to enjoy the new calendars!

This time the theme was *You and the City*. You and your neighbors submitted fun shots of things you do at City events and facilities - thank you!

Pick up your calendar at City Hall, Utility Billing, Service Center, Sam Houston Statue & Visitor Center, Huntsville Police Department, Huntsville Public Library, Main Street, The Wynne Home and Municipal Court!

Huntsville Police Department Welcomes Judy Phillips!

At the beginning of March, Huntsville Police Department hired a new Data Control Clerk, Judy Phillips, to start learning the ways of retired, Debra Jones. The department took her in with open arms and she has been learning the ropes from one of the best.

Phillips and her husband have lived in Huntsville for a majority of their lives while raising two daughters. For the last 30 years, Phillips has worked for Huntsville ISD serving 10 years as a teacher and the rest of her time as a counselor at Sam Houston Elementary School and the final part of her career with HISD was as a Special Education Counselor.

Having spent most of her adult life in Huntsville, Phillips knows a lot of people at the Huntsville Police Department, but everyone with a new face.. “could not have been more welcoming and loving” Phillips told us. She is most excited about the people she is getting to work alongside with and the opportunity to continue to support the community and help in any way she can.

As well as loving the community, Phillips is also an SHSU Bearkat. She received her Master’s Degree from SHSU, she and her family still give back to the university as well as support athletics, especially the Women’s Basketball Team.

A fun fact about Mrs. Phillips is she is a Data Control Clerk by day and a children’s Author by night. Alongside Coach Nichols, the SHSU Women’s Basketball Head Coach, are partners in writing and illustrating children’s books. Phillips does most of the writing while Coach Nichols focuses on the illustrations. In their current chapter book series, Miss Priss On & Off the Court, she gets advice from Coach Nichols since the book is centered around a young girl discovering her passion for basketball. The duo’s first book, Beauregard Le’ Moose is Loose in New Orleans, is centered on a traveling moose and the adventures he goes on. “I find time to write late at night, and I am a devoted reader which helps inspire me for new stories to write,” said Phillips. Their books are published with Smooth Sailing Press in Spring, Texas and available on Amazon.com.

Mrs. Phillips is “delighted to be a part of the Police Department and thoroughly enjoyed her time with Huntsville ISD.” So, a warm Huntsville welcome to Judy Phillips!



Huntsville Music Festival

The City of Huntsville’s Main Street Program is bringing back the annual Huntsville Music Festival this April! Join the community for FREE concerts, the last two Thursdays in April, the 21st and 28th from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm in Rather Park at the corner of University and 13th. April 21st kicks off with acoustic performances by Kenna Danielle, John Slaughter, and Sam Riggs. JB and The Moonshine Band will close the first night with a full band jam!

The music continues the following Thursday on April 28th with a full night of acoustic country from Presley Lewis, Andy Terrell Band, and Bubba Westly. This final night has a double headliner and song swap with Adam Hood and Zane Williams.

Local food trucks and Shenanigans will be set up at the concerts selling great food and drinks! Mark your calendars, dust off your lawn chairs, bring your appetites, thirst, friends, family and neighbors. Join us for two beautiful evenings of music and fun! For more details: facebook.com/COHmainstreet.

A poster for the Huntsville Music Festival. The top section is for Thursday, April 21st, featuring Kenna Danielle, John Slaughter, Sam Riggs, and JB and The Moonshine Band. The bottom section is for Thursday, April 28th, featuring Presley Lewis, Andy Terrell Band, Bubba Westly, Adam Hood, and Zane Williams. The poster also mentions food trucks, adult beverages, and giveaways. The location is listed as Rather Park from 5:00 - 10:00 PM at 1221 University (13th & University Ave). Logos for sponsors like Winesap, Shenanigans, and LEAM are at the bottom.

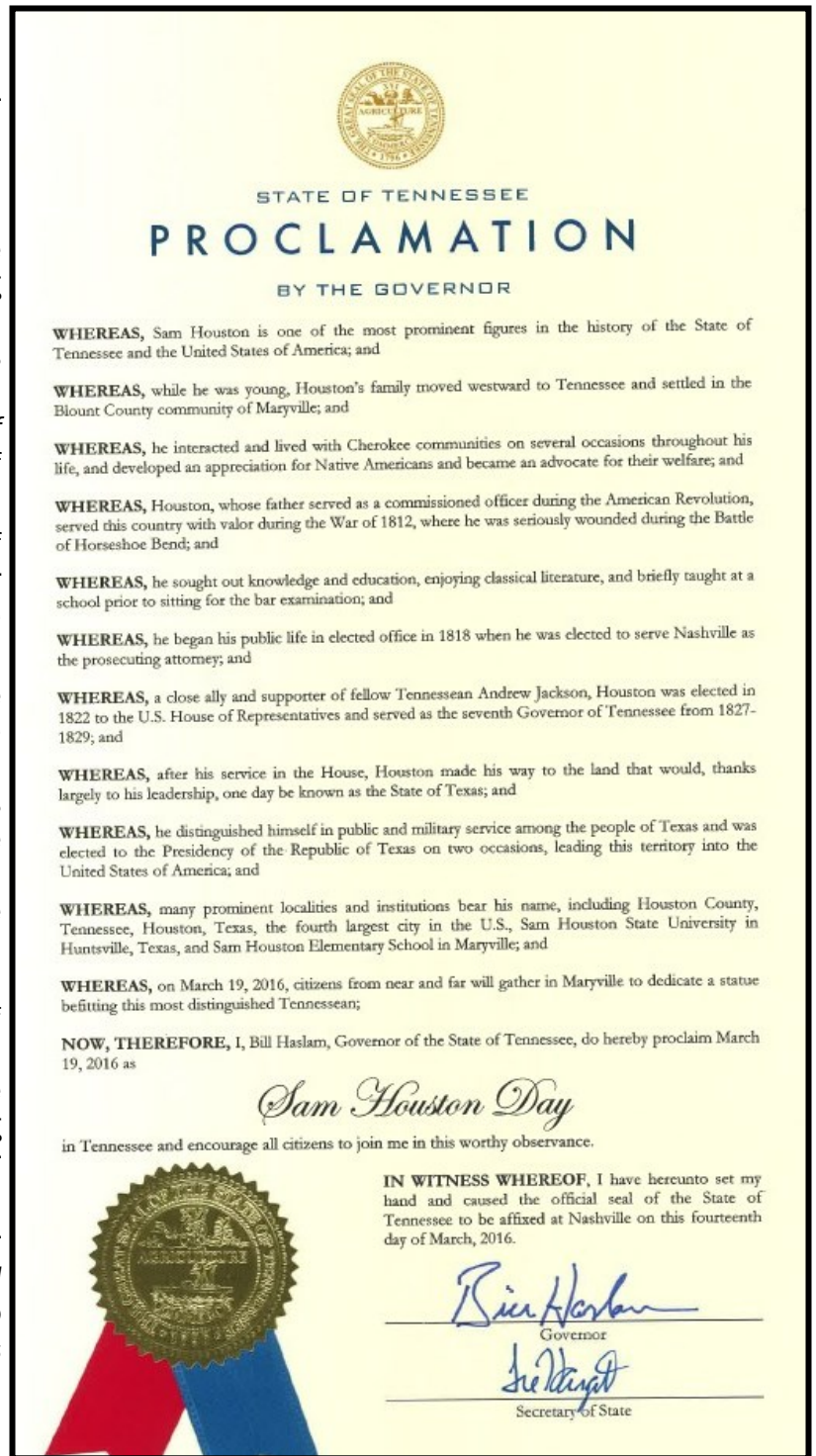
Sister Cities Honor Sam Houston

Just recently, Mayor Andy Brauninger and former Mayor Mac Woodward, the Director of the Sam Houston Memorial Museum, set off to take part in the dedication of a statue of the young Sam Houston in Maryville, Tennessee. The group had the privilege of witnessing history during the unveiling ceremony along side the Mayor of Maryville, Tom Taylor, U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander, descendants of Sam Houston, and many other distinguished guests. The statue was named, *"You Shall Hear of Me"* after Houston's final words to the people of Maryville when he left to join the U.S. Army.

Mayors Brauninger & Taylor had the honor of proclaiming March 19 *Sam Houston Day*. Governor of Tennessee, Bill Haslam performed the same honor for the entire state of Tennessee.

"The trip to Maryville was wonderful. The people could not have been nicer and more accommodating. It was great to celebrate Sam Houston at an early age and the importance of his time in Maryville. Huntsville and Maryville share the unique honor of both being the "Home of Sam Houston." I encourage anyone that is in the Maryville area to visit the Sam Houston Statue and School House." said Woodward. "Our trip was great, I would say the best part of the trip was the people of Tennessee, they treated us so nicely the entire time. There were more than 300 people at the statue unveiling. The life of Sam Houston created a strong bond between our two communities." Brauninger commented.

They both returned with great memories from their trip and new friends in Maryville! *Check our social media platforms to see more photos from the event!*



City Council Adopts 2016 Strategic Plan

Goal #1, City Appearance - Provide policies, amenities, and events that enhance the City's already beautiful and historic natural environment.

Goal #2, Communications - Provide public information outreach efforts that inform the public of City operations, accomplishments, and policies, and allow for citizen input on matters of Council policy.

Goal #3, Economic Development - Promote and enhance a strong and diverse economy.

Goal #4, Infrastructure - Ensure the quality of the City utilities, transportation, and physical structures so that the City's core services can be provided in an effective and efficient manner.

Goal #5, Resource Development - Enhance the quality of life for citizens, businesses, and visitors by leveraging the human and fiscal resources available to the community.

Goal #6, Finance - Provide a sustainable, efficient, and fiscally sound government through conservative fiscal practices, and resource management.

Goal #7, Public Safety - Provide safety and security for all citizens.

Goal #8, Long Range Planning - Match available long-range financing capacity with projects to improve and sustain the quality of life of the citizens of Huntsville.

A Knock Out of the Park

The 2016 Scott's Major League Baseball Pitch Hit & Run Program was the best one yet. The day was full of friendly competition for boys and girls from the community. Different age groups competed in events including hitting, speed, pitching and other core baseball and softball skills. We have 6 participants who get the opportunity to travel to Conroe on May 14th for the Sectional competition. We want to wish all our Huntsville winners best of luck in the next round!



The Easter Bunny came to Huntsville!

From the Wynne Home to the grounds at City Hall, the weather over Easter weekend was picturesque for the several Easter egg hunts going on all over the City. There were special appearances made by Sammy the Bearkat and the Easter Bunny himself. Thank you to all of the families who came out to celebrate Easter around the City!



Follow your City!



[Now on Instagram: CityofHuntsville](https://www.instagram.com/CityofHuntsville)



www.facebook.com/HuntsvilleTX



[http://twitter.com/HuntsvilleTexas](https://twitter.com/HuntsvilleTexas)



<https://www.youtube.com/huntsvilletxGOV>

Watch us!

Be sure to follow to our YouTube channel & social media sites to be among the first to see our new animated videos full of information! The current videos have everything you need to know for the May 7th Special Election! Follow at <https://www.youtube.com/huntsvillexGOV>



Huntsville Public Library STEAM Program

In a climate of economic uncertainty, many families are turning to innovative ways to ensure a productive future for everyone from mom and dad to their children. To assist local families with that effort, the Huntsville Public Library will be promoting STEAM through the end of the 2016 school year.

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) is a movement that is sweeping the nation in both schools and many libraries. "Children learn best by doing," said Assistant City Librarian Anne Sparks. "It is not about what they know but what they can do."

Huntsville Public Library's first STEAM program, held on April 1, promoted engineering by creating marshmallow towers. The second event is a Nature Day for elementary-aged students from 3 to 5 p.m. on Friday, April 15, in the Community Room. "As part of the library's STEAM program, children are invited to experience and appreciate the beauty of nature through building unique crafts and by planting seeds to replenish the environment," said Sparks.

According to the American Library Association, the objectives of the STEAM movement are bring art and design into the mix of traditional STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), to encourage their integration into the education of everyone at any age, and to influence employers to hire artists and designers to drive innovation. "Literacy is multifaceted. Lifelong learning includes all ages," said Sparks. "We can facilitate discovery and promote interest which is a powerful motivator."

In preschool-aged children, STEAM introduces fundamental concept skills, while promoting a love of the library. For school-aged children, programming promotes a deeper understanding of STEAM and engages reluctant readers. In adults, STEAM reactivates the learning process and encourages growth.



A Health and Safety Day is planned for the final STEAM program of April at the library. Families are invited to come from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 29. There will be opportunities to meet police officers and firefighters. "This will be a valuable learning experience with safety tips and more," Sparks said. "We will have many booths that will keep everyone busy and learning."

For more information, contact the Huntsville Public Library at [936-291-5472](tel:936-291-5472). Story by Brenda Poe, Huntsville Public Library Cataloger.